

Message Text

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SUBJECT: USIS CAIRO WEEKLY REPORT

1. OVER TWENTY PRESTIGIOUS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, PROFESSORS, WRITERS AND MIDDLE EAST SCHOLARS LED BY VOLUNTEER SPEAKER DR. WILLIAN QUANDT ON JANUARY 3. THE SEMINAR WAS SPONSORED BY THE MIDDLE EAST RESEARCH CENTER OF AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY. ALTHOUGH THE SEMINAR UNFORTUNATELY COINCIDED WITH THE ISLAMIC NEW YEAR HOLIDAY, PARTICPANTS INCLUDED PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SPOKESMAN TAHSIN BASHIR, FORMER MINISTERS OF INFORMATION AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND LEADING ACADEMICS FROM CAIRO AND AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITIES. THE DISCUSSION WAS LIVELY, RUNNING FOR MORE THAN TWO AND A HALF HOURS, AND PROVIDED AN ERUDITE AND INDEPTH LOOK AT THE MIDDLE EAST IN RECENT HISTORY WITH A FOCUS ON U.S. POLICY IN THE AREA. DR. QUANDT WAS PRAISED ROUNDLY FOR HIS LUCID AND FRANK PRESENTATION AND WAS INVITED AND AGREED TO CONTRIBUTE AN ARTICLE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE CENTER'S JOURNAL ON MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS.

2. SPECIAL FILM SCREENINGS WERE ARRANGED FOR THE SEVEN FILMS IN THE AGENCY'S EXCELLENT SERIES "AMERICA IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY." INTERVENING HOLIDAYS AND A PRESSING DEADLINE FOR RETURNING THE FILMS TO WASHINGTON PREVENTED MORE EXTENSIVE PROGRAMMING BUT "TO BE YOUNG GIFTED AND BLACK" WAS PRESENTED TO AN AUDIENCE OF 120 STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS AT THE HIGHER INSTITUTE OF DRAMA. "ALVIN AILEY'S MEMORIES OF VISIONS" WAS SHOWN

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AT THE HIGHER INSTITUTE OF BALLET TO 140 STUDENTS AND THEIR FIVE VERY INTERESTED RUSSIAN PROFESSORS AND PROMPTED AN INTENSE FOLLOW-ON DISCUSSION OF DANCE TECHNIQUE AND THE INTERPRETATIONS OF AILEY. "THE NEW YORK SCHOOL" AND "NORMAN ROCKELL'S WORLD" WERE SCREENED BY SOME 150 STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS AT THE FACULTY OF APPLIED ARTS, HELWAN UNIVERSITY. FULBRIGHT PROFESSOR ROBERT LEWIS (AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY) AND AMERICAN STUDIES PROFESSOR WILLIAM COFFEY (AUC) TEAMED UP TO PRESENT A SPECIAL SCREENING/SEMINAR UTILIZING THE REMAINING THREE FILMS IN A TWO DAY PROGRAM FOR 45 STUDENTS AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY. THE FILMS INCLUDED: "THE FIRST IMPACT", "THE PROMISE FULFILLED AND THE PROMISE BROKEN" AND "BUT IS THIS PROGRESS." THE PROFESSORS INTRODUCED EACH OF THE FILMS AND LED FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT MATTER PRESENTED. THE PACKET WAS MUCH APPRECIATED AND PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN FURTHERING OUR CONTINUING EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN AMERICAN STUDIES IN EGYPT.

3. SEVERAL MONTHS AGO THE POST PREPARED AND MIMEOGRAPHED A PAPER ON EGYPT SETTING FORTH BASIC DATA ON ITS HISTORY, POLITICAL SYSTEM, GEOGRAPHY, EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, ETC. FOR USE IN RESPONDING TO THE NUMEROUS REQUESTS THE EMBASSY RECEIVES FOR SUCH INFORMATION. LAST WEEK THE PAO PICKED UP IN MURSI SAAD EL DIN'S OFFICE A NEW, PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED PAMPHLET ENTITLED "EGYPT" WHICH HAS JUST BEEN ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION. AT FIRST WE WERE STRUCK BY THE FACT THAT SOMEWHAT INCONGRUOUSLY THE LAST FOUR PAGES WERE DEVOTED TO RELATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND THE UNITED STATES COMPLETE WITH PHOTOS OF PRESIDENT SADAT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD, SECRETARY KISSINGER AND VARIOUS VISITING U.S. CONGRESSMEN BUT THE PAMPHLET CONTAINS NO REFERENCE TO RELATIONS WITH ANY OTHER COUNTRY.

CLOSER INSPECTION REVEALED THE REASON: THE TEXT IS OUR PAPER, VIRTUALLY WORD FOR WORD, WHICH HAS SIMPLY BEEN ILLUSTRATED AND REPRODUCED BY THE MINISTRY. THIS MUST SURELY CONSTITUTE EVIDENCE OF SOMETHING.

RUSSELL

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